

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-13

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/P: JEBRIGGS

APPROVED BY: NEA/P: JEBRIGGS

S/PRS: MR. KING (INFO)

IO/P: MR. BLACHLY

NEA/EGY: MR. ANDERSON

AF/P: MRS. RUSSELL

EUR/P: MR. SAVAGE

H: MISS FOLGER(INFO)

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R 231914Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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EO11652 NA
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
JANUARY 23, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT JONATHON BATES? HAS
HE BEEN RELEASED BY SYRIA?

A. I AM NOT SURE HE HAS BEEN RELEASED, BUT I UNDERSTAND HE
HAS NOT YET LEFT SYRIA. AT LEAST THAT WAS THE SITUATION
THIS MORNING. IN ANY EVENT, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE HE IS
RIGHT NOW. BUT AS SECRETARY SAID, WE EXPECT HIM TO BE
RELEASED.

Q. PRESIDENT SADAT IS QUOTED ON ONE OF THE WIRES AS SAYING
THAT SYRIA IS NOW READY TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON DISENGAGE-
MENT? COULD YOU TELL US HOW THAT INVOLVES THE SECRETARY?
HAS HE BEEN IN TOUCH SINCE HE HAS BEEN BACK HERE WITH ANY
SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES, AND DOES HE PLAN ANY KIND OF A TRIP
SIMILAR TO THE ONE HE JUST COMPLETED?

A. AS A FACTUAL MATTER, I DON'T KNOW THAT HE HAS BEEN IN
TOUCH WITH ANY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT, AND
I KNOW OF NO PLANS NOW FOR A TRIP TO DAMASCUS.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THIS REPORT, SADAT SAYING THAT
SYRIA IS READY TO DISCUSS DISENGAGEMENT WITH ISRAEL, IS
FACTUALLY TRUE?
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A. I HAVE SEEN ONLY PRESS REPORTS OF HIS REMARKS, YES.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER DURING HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP, THE
SECRETARY DISCUSSED THE FUTURE OF PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIS
OWN ROLE IN A POSSIBLE FUTURE ADMINISTRATION WITH THE
ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN ANY WAY, SHAPE, OR FORM?

A. IF YOU ARE REFERRING TO A STORY CARRIED ON ONE OF THE NETWORKS LAST NIGHT, THE SECRETARY, HIMSELF HAS LABELED THAT ANNOUNCEMENT AS AN OUTRAGEOUS LIE AND THE RECORD SPECIFICALLY SHOWS THAT.

Q. I UNDERSTAND--THIS SPECIFIC REPORT--BUT I AM BROADENING THAT A LITTLE BIT TO SEE IF PERHAPS THE CONVERSATION WASN'T CARRIED ON BY THE SECRETARY, DEALING WITH THE SITUATION IN GENERAL--THAT MIGHT HAVE LED TO MISINTERPRETATIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

A. I WOULD THINK THAT ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO RAISED IN A FORMAL WAY, QUESTIONS LIKE THAT, WOULD BE TOTALLY OUT OF BOUNDS. THAT SORT OF THING IS SIMPLY NOT ACCEPTABLE IN DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.END QUOTE
KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED TO SANAA.

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